

# THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 1st. 1898.

NUMBER 5

**WILSON, SONS & CO.**  
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Reserve fund . . . . . £1,328,751

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Capital paid up . . . . . " 1,000,000  
Reserve fund . . . . . " 600,000

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CAMPIAS, RIO GRANDE DO SUL,  
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Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., LONDON.

Messrs. Mallet Frères & Co., PARIS.

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Established in Hamburg on 16th December,  
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Norddeutsche Bank in  
Hamburg, Hamburg  
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Paris, Paris.  
Lazard Frères & Co., Paris.  
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spondents.

and any other countries.  
Opens accounts current.  
Pays interest on deposits for a certain time.  
Receives orders for purchases and sales of stocks,  
shares, etc., and transacts every description of bank-  
ing business.

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Directors.

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LONDON: Princes Street, E. C.

PARIS: 16, Rue Halévy.

Rio de Janeiro:

No. 20, Rua da Alfandega.

Authorized by Decree No. 591, of 17th October, 1891.

Subscribed capital . . . . . £ 1,500,000  
Realized do . . . . . " 900,000  
Reserve fund . . . . . " 1,000,000

BRANCHES:

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London E. C.

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Item paid up . . . . . " 500,000

Reserve fund . . . . . " 300,000

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Receives deposits at notice or for fixed periods and  
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AUTHORIZED BY

Decree No. 2,432 of 2nd January, 1897.

CAPITAL: Frs 10,000,000 (Ten million Francs)

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l'industrie en France, and branch  
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The Bank has Correspondents in the United States  
of America, all European cities, and is prepared to  
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Opens accounts current.

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With notice:	
3 months . . . . .	4 1/2 %
6 " . . . . .	5 1/2 %
12 " . . . . .	6 1/2 %

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These wonderful pills, so useful and  
beneficial in all affections of the stomach  
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where a post-office exists; the manufactu-  
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Rio de Janeiro

**RIVER PLATE ITEMS.**

—There was a report current in Buenos  
Aires that the state of Rio Grande do Sul  
would declare herself independent on the  
23rd ult.

—There were 531 births, 88 marriages and  
421 deaths in Montevideo during the month of  
December. Of the births, 93 were illegitimate.  
The population was estimated at 249,629.

—The number of persons who arrived in  
this country by water during the year 1897 was  
130,656, of whom 105,145 were immigrants.  
The proportion of the latter who arrived in  
ocean steamers was 72,978. The number of  
passenger steamers that arrived was 327. From  
Italy came 38,745 of the immigrants from  
Spain 30,059 from Brazil 9,677 and from France  
7,813, but a large proportion of those who ar-  
rived from Brazil were Italians; the total  
number of that nationality was 41,678. The  
number who entered the immigrant's hotel  
was 27,593, and 24,653 were sent by the na-  
tional office of work to the provinces of Buenos  
Aires, Santa Fé, Mendoza and Córdoba.—  
Times, Buenos Aires.

—The vexed question of national versus  
provincial jurisdiction over the railway com-  
panies is again to the fore by the government  
of the province of Buenos Aires having impos-  
ed a fine of \$1000 on the Central Argentine  
Railway Company for not having sent in the  
plans for the new station at the Tigre. The  
ministry has stated that this railway comes  
under its jurisdiction and has ordered it to  
build a new station on a site different from  
that on which the province ordered the build-  
ing to be erected. Another case that has  
lately arisen is in connection with the Rosario  
Railway Company, which was ordered by the  
province to open a level crossing at San Pedro  
station, and which the national authorities  
advised the company that it need not do. The  
province has now ordered the work to be done  
by force. It is certainly degrading to the  
country to have all these bickerings going on  
between the authorities, and, unfortunately,  
it is the companies which suffer in the end;  
but we are pleased to see that a decree has been  
promulgated, to take effect from the first of  
February, by which all the railways which are  
interprovincial or which start from the federal  
capital are placed solely under national juris-  
diction, over and for all.—Argentine, Buenos  
Aires.

—Since writing «Notes and Comments» for  
our last issue, where we mentioned that the  
national book-keeping of the republic of  
Bolivia seems to be very much in arrears, judg-  
ing from an official report of last year, we  
have been favored with a copy of the last  
report of the minister of finance, and we are  
glad to be able to state that the system of  
book-keeping has been greatly improved  
during the present administration. We find  
that a full account of the revenue and expendi-  
ture of 1896 was presented to congress in  
August last. This document shows that the  
national revenue (exclusive of provincial  
budgets) amounted to \$5,266,512.79 (Bolivian  
dollars), and the expenditure to \$5,089,014.65,  
leaving an available balance of \$177,528.14.  
The only recognized foreign debt is the amount  
due to Chilean creditors as a result of the  
treaty of peace with Chile, which, in accom-  
pany with the said treaty, is being paid with  
40 per cent, of the proceeds of the estimo-  
house of Africa. The internal floating debt  
has been reduced to the comparatively small  
sum of \$1,105,154.34, which is due to the local  
banks. The old accumulated internal debt,  
entered in the books of the public credit from  
the time of the war of independence until  
recent date, adds up to the sum of \$3,707,541.50,  
but there is no direct liability of the govern-  
ment in respect to it, and its eventual payment  
will depend on special resolutions to be taken  
by congress.—South American Journal,  
January 1.

—The book written by Dr. Francisco P.  
Moreno which has caused so much commotion in  
the Chilean press is the first part of a report  
of the observations made by Dr. Moreno and his  
staff of engineers, geologists, and naturalists  
who, on behalf of the La Plata museum, vi-  
sited the Andine regions of the Argentine repub-  
lic in 1896. As we have previously said we  
think it is to be regretted that this apple of dis-  
cord should have been thrown into the inter-  
national arena at a time when the work of de-  
marcation was proceeding peacefully, the  
people of both countries being satisfied that any  
difficulties which might arise during the opera-  
tion should be settled under the arbitration  
convention. The withholding of the book from  
publication for a year or two would have been  
judicious, seeing that Dr. Moreno is at the head  
of the demarcation commission, and his argu-  
ments in favour of any particular mode of trac-  
ing the boundary should have been reserved for  
his official use in that capacity. It is contem-  
plated that the Chileans have no right to com-  
plain of the publication of his opinions by  
Dr. Moreno, because his Chilean colleague in  
the work of demarcation did the same thing a  
few years ago, but it will be remembered that  
the Argentine newspapers raged furiously in  
consequence of that publication and brought  
the two nations to the verge of war and there-  
fore they cannot consistently defend the act of  
Dr. Moreno in publishing his book while he  
occupies his responsible post. Moreover, the  
situation has changed, the question of the line  
of *disertum aquarum* or of the highest peaks  
was thoroughly thrashed out two years ago,  
and a convention was signed which it was sup-  
posed would lead to the final settlement of  
this long-pending dispute without further risk  
of war.—Times, Buenos Aires.



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**CAPITAL . . . £2,000,000**

This Company is prepared to write large lines in the city of Rio de Janeiro on most liberal terms.

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**TRIUMPHATOR-BRÄU**

AND

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We also carry a full line of Sundries.

Several good cheap bicycles in stock and a large consignment of STANDARD HIGH GRADE WHEELS SHORTLY.

Give us a trial and we will do our best to please you.

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## THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a summary of the daily police reports and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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**79, Rua Sete de Setembro.**

POSTOFFICE ADDRESS:— Caixa 258.

**RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 1st, 1898.**

## NOTICE.

In view of the continued fall in exchange, which reduces the currency price of this paper to less than half its original rate, the local currency subscription rate will be increased to 40000, or 800 réis per copy, on and after 1st March next.

YESTERDAY the government resolved to extend martial law to February 23rd. This will allow five days of civil jurisdiction before the presidential elections. Why this measure is considered necessary we do not know, but it may be presumed that the government will give its reasons for so exceptional an act in good time. It may be said that the executive is not abusing the power which this act permits, and the public is therefore thoroughly indifferent. In addition to this the transport *Andrada* left port on the evening of the 22nd ult., "on a government commission", as one newspaper says, which commission, it is currently stated, is that of transporting various political prisoners to Fernando de Noronha. As we are under martial law the question is not discussed. As the deportation of these prisoners was telegraphed to Buenos Aires and is discussed in São Paulo, there can be no indiscretion in stating the fact.

THERE are so many ways in which economies can be effected in administrative expenditures, that it is useless to undertake more than a discussion of individual cases. A list of them all would be well nigh impossible. There are some cases, however, which involve questions more serious than that of economy, and these should perhaps claim first attention. Of these, let us consider the simple matter of departmental supplies. We have spoken of this before, and we shall perhaps speak of it many times more before we hear of a reform. It is required by law—and what iniquities are not committed in the name of the law!—that all contracts for such supplies shall be awarded on public tenders. This is quite right, so far as the law goes, but in practice it is a shield for the protection of boundless

corruption and rascality, and for the defeat of all honest competition. There is probably not one public department which is free from these abuses. To defeat honest competitors, the tenders are placed at a price too low for them, and then by a compact between the contractor and official one half or one third—less than that if necessary—is delivered in place of the full quantity. A certain percentage of the difference is paid to the officials who receive the supplies and pass the accounts, and the balance remains with the contractor who secured his contract by means of open competition. We have even heard of a railway president who received a percentage of every contract made for supplying his road with materials. We have heard of officials whose house rents are double their salaries and whose style of living indicates very handsome private incomes. We have heard of public departments paying twelve thousand for a piece of work which an honest competition would have secured for six. In fact there is not a merchant in Rio de Janeiro who has had occasion to supply the public departments who does not know that straightforward dealing is absolutely fruitless. All this, of course, means an enormous increase in expenditure, as well as infinite demoralization. It is a serious burden upon the public treasury, it defiles the public service, and it discourages honest industry and trade.

THE compliments tendered to the retiring governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Dr. Julio de Castilhos, are decidedly unrepentant and mischievous. It is remembered that he is young, able and energetic, that he has shown exceptional administrative capacity, and that his management of the finances of his state has been singularly successful. And the *Jornal do Commercio*, which has no occasion to say agreeable things to Julio de Castilhos, says that "the people of this and of all countries admire a strong government, which knows what it wants and knows how to carry out what it has resolved upon." This may in a measure be true, but it is a mistake to say so, or to sanction such a statement. Were we dealing with the man himself, the private individual Julio de Castilhos, we might cordially agree to all these good opinions, but when we remember his public character, his arbitrary acts, his enmities, and his contemptuous disregard of the rights of political opponents, we must respectfully decline to burn incense before him. In a republic the law is more than the man, and principles are more than party measures. A strong government may be a benefit to industry and commerce, and the foreigner may consistently extol it, but when we consider that this same government is of the type which promises liberty of thought, speech and action to the people, and which guarantees them the right of suffrage and representation, we can not logically reconcile the exercise of dictatorial authority with it, nor can we express admiration for the dictator simply because he is strong and able. If the people, as the *Jornal* says, admire a strong government, then let them be consistent and adopt the form of government best constituted for the exercise of executive strength. To admire such strength while proclaiming loyalty to the very reverse, is certainly not wise, consistent, or manly. A strong people is better than a strong government, for it guarantees more than any such government can give. To rely too much on executive initiative and vigor, will tend to weaken the people, and is therefore pernicious. While we may admire some of the qualities which have contributed to the success of Julio de Castilhos, we can not forget how he governed, and the influence which his government has had upon the people of Rio Grande do Sul. And the conclusion is that he has not only done far more harm than good, but that it will be many years before that state recovers from his baleful political influence.

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Botafogo.

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For sale the lightdraft, twin-screw steamer *ANTA*, as she now lies at Rio de Janeiro, built in 1895, 78 Tons Register, Dead weight capacity about 160 Tons. For particulars apply to Capt. Trevena, c/o Charles Hine, 5, Rua Presca.

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Lady's silk fancy dress, never used, to be sold very cheap at Crashley & Co., Rua Ouvidor 67.

## Missing Friends.

Information wanted at the British Consulate General, No. 2, Rua General Camara, as to the following: DOUGLAS, John—of Dunkeith, Perthshire, Scotland, who left for Rio about 1888 or 1889. Appears to have been employed on one of the railway lines. CONNOR, JOHN—of Coventry, England. He left Rio for Santos and São Paulo in February, 1892.

Rio de Janeiro, December 2nd.



# O DESPOTISMO NA PONTA!

Looking back on the general trend of events during the past century—I need scarcely say I do not speak exclusively from personal recollection—one notices that the chief occupation of what seems the more important portion of the human race, during its course, has been that of endeavoring to discover a new form of government, which shall be perfect from the points of view of both rulers and ruled. We are still at it, with our lords and commons, our supreme courts, senators, sovereigns, kings, knisers, councils, dukes, deputies, dictators and D. fools, and are apparently nearly as far from a satisfactory solution as ever.

In view of the «alloguing and marshaling» of the drum beating and the terrible spread-eagles of our much belauded republican systems, it is curious to note that the two nations—one heterogeneous and semi-barbarous, the other highly cultured, intelligent and homogeneous—which appear to possess at this moment the greatest power and influence in shaping the destinies of mankind, are governed by absolute despots of the fine old crusted, mediæval, military sort.

One charming characteristic of republics seems to be that they all hate one another like poison. Liberty and Equality apparently breed nothing but mutual aversion, and Fraternity fosters distrust.

For example, the United States showing a disposition to extend a motherly protection to the South American republics, was promptly given to understand by the latter that they were not buying any Greek «gee-gees» at present, and she might keep her protection to cool her custom-house. Brazil hates Argentina, Argentina loathes Chili, Chili is always slinking her blue-white fist at Peru, and so they go on, right up and down a gauntlet in which every note is out of tune with all the rest. What is the reason? Is it to be found in the fact that liberty is a woman, and all the republican figures are females?

As for the constitutional monarchies, they meet with the fate of all compromises. In trying to please everybody they please nobody, and the more they prosper the more they are hated by both extremists.

Now contrast with this the delightful harmony with which despotic governments conduct their affairs. Where could you arrange a triple alliance of republics like that of the three despotic emperors? Was it not a lesson to us all to note how those worthy gentlemen went on dining together year after year, in perfect harmony, getting photographed hand in hand, hobnobbing and speecifying, holding reviews and sham fights, and swearing black and blue that if they only got their own way they would allow all the world to be happy and comfortable? Instead of hating, did not every one feel much obliged to them for their kindness and condescension?

Despotism is a law of Nature. You can no more abolish it than you can abolish such a Republicanism is only monarchism reduced to the point of absurdity.

When Equality Jack bellows and raves, votes and fights, for what he calls a republic, he only means that he cannot tolerate the idea of another man being a king, while he himself is a subject. Reverse the proposition, and you will find that he has no objection whatever to become an absolute monarch in his own person. He wants to be a king; that, and not any other, is what he lays claim to, since he cannot obtain the chance of kinging it over other people, he is fain to content himself with becoming «a king in a humble way» like the nigger in the «Bab» ballad, and having nominal dominion over himself. Be not deceived. Republicanism is nothing better than a change rung on the old peal; a mere shuffle of cards in which every knave expects to come out as a «right bower».

Anarchism, which is republicanism in its turn reduced to an outrageous absurdity, would, were it not for it to exist at all, be hell on earth. For what pleasure could there be for the average man in a state of things where he could find no one to look down upon? Does not one of the chief pleasures of being rich lie in the knowledge that others are poor and miserable? Nature exacts, or imposes, that every society, like every age, shall have a head and a tail, Israel chosen for a king, Israel, to say, is, curiously enough, the only important nation which has not got a king of some kind; and we know what sort of a time the Israelites, in spite of all their wealth and ability, are now having in republican France, and despotic Germany.

Republicanism, anarchism, monarchism, despotism, average «patriotism» are only various forms of the one eternal and unchanging ism, which is Egoism, with a big, big E. When the average patriotic bore waxes you with talk about a particular man, which he calls his «flag» and his country, you know of course he is only taking an indirect way of bragging about himself; still the republican patriotic snob is naturally even more blatant and generally obnoxious than his monarchist fellow, for the reason that his brag refers to himself alone, while the latter is bound to some extent to extol the virtues of his monarch as well. Not, however, that in point of tediousness there is a pin to choose between them. The wise man will bear with them, however, reflecting that the brutes are only obeying a law of nature made for their protection; and that were it not for race hatred, patriotism, family pride, and other forms of egotism, the human family would soon be

extinct; which, it is understood, would be a great misfortune.

To return to our superior despots. Take the case of the Chinese business. Nations having anything to lose, and not being in the Chinese «swing», appear to be hoping that jealousies may arise between Russia and Germany in connection with their new Eastern enterprise; that, in short, the two—what shall I call them?—Holy Crusaders may fall out and fight over their plunder; or that the Chinese millions may wake up to their danger, rise on their invaders and destroy them. «Knocking down» four hundred million Chinamen «with his mailed fist» might it is thought prove a task to which even a Prussian prince would prove unequal. «Nothing», says the London *Spectator*, «is so powerless as water till it gets in motion». But the Chinese millions cannot have either arms, discipline, or any proper understanding of what is going on; and in case of need, European flying columns, perfectly armed and drilled, might play the part the Free Companies did in the time of Charles V., carrying fire and sword, rapine and ruin, all over the Yellow Empire, till the yellow danger had been extinguished, and the new Evangel properly preached to the pig tailed heathen. Why should not the missionary powers go on as they have begun?

If it came to supposing, why not suppose that Russia and Germany harmoniously carry out their designs, and that both agree as comfortably over their old China in the present, as they have in the past? We can suppose, too, that within a short time the Emperor of Austria may die, his empire split up, and its 16,000,000 Germans carry out what they have already threatened, and join their kinsmen under the Kaiser Wilhelm.

I say despotism is in the ascendant at present. Even the Sultan of Turkey—the «Sick Man»—has fallen in a wonderful manner; and as for the Mikado—who laughs at the Mikado now?

Might make Rights to-day more than ever it did; consequently the strong-stem nation has the best right to everything it wants.

England, with a strong fleet and a weak army, would be only partially right in claiming to be let into the Chinese «swing». If she had a powerful army also, she would be quite right. Under a despotic régime she would have conscription, and therefore be entitled to knock people down with her mailed fist if they declined to part with their property quietly; for a despotic king would soon break up the rookery of gentlemanly jobbers who, in the most delicate and fastidiously honorable manner in the world, have «nobbled» the army revenues and patronage, giving the nation a hundred and odd thousand well-dressed and gallant young soldiers, and a few half drilled militia in exchange for a yearly sum amounting to two-thirds the cost of the entire German army with its reserves, say, in all, about 112 millions of marks. With conscription, plus despotism, the British Foreign Office would have a policy of its own. But here constitutionalism comes in, and the B. F. O. has to wait, but in hand, to hear the wise opinion of the British viceroy.

According to the newspapers, the United States recognise that their interests in China are «enormous», and they highly approve the British action in intimating that no power can be allowed to close any Chinese ports to the commerce of the world. Nevertheless, according to the Washington correspondent of the London *Daily Chronicle*, it is said in the inner diplomatic circles in that city, that in case of a conflict between France, Russia and Germany on the one hand, and England on the other, America's attitude would be «passive and indifferent», and England would find herself entirely isolated, unless she formed an alliance with Japan. To be sure it is one thing to write «laughing» letters to a good tempered kinsman, and quite another to send a hostile cartel to a fighting foreigner. An American emperor, if one can imagine such a being, would have no German-Irish electorate to consider, and would probably draw the sword, if necessary, in defence of his enormous interests, without consulting anybody.

But of all the figures cut by the various nations at the present juncture, that of republican France is the most diverting. Just one hundred years ago she was wailing up to the knees in blood, shrieking «death to all despots!» and singing:

«Liberté, Liberté, chérie,  
Combats avec tes défenseurs!»

and

«Que les tyrans expirants  
Voient votre triomphe et notre gloire!

Aux armes!» etc.

And to-day France cannot move a step without the permission of despotic Russia; France has apparently forgotten all about the Marseillaise, forgotten Alsace and Lorraine, forgotten «Liberté, Liberté, chérie», forgotten everything worth remembering, and run away to China with the Russian naval officer she kissed in the streets of Paris. May she be happy! But should her sailor boy prove constant, and cast off his too important mistress, we may yet, perhaps, live to see her tramping round with a distinguished foreigner who blows his own clarionette «in the middle of a German band!»

I say «Viva o despotismo!» The Phrygian cap is a fool's cap, and Purple is the only wear!

NICOLBERTS DEWEDROP.

S. Paulo, Jan. 28, 1898.

# COFFEE NOTES

—The London correspondent of the *Jornal do Commercio* telegraphed on the 27th ult. that coffee had sensibly declined at Havre, and that the decline is attributed to a telegram from Messrs. Holworthy, Ellis & Co., denying the reports of a smaller crop and asserting there had been no drought in S. Paulo.

# PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The governor of Matto Grosso has resigned.

—The clerk of one of the S. Paulo courts has been indicted for malfeasance.

—It is stated that the crews of the vessels composing the flotilla at Manaus have not been paid for two months.

—A new theatre seating over 800 persons has been built at Banguaçu, S. Paulo. It is called *Theatro de Ca. L. S. Gomes*.

—By the superior court of the state of Rio de Janeiro the last municipal election at Nictheroy has been declared invalid.

—It is stated that in Paraná very serious occurrences are expected and that many persons have emigrated to the River Plate.

—The American consul at Santos, Mr. J. E. Hill, is returning to the United States, per the *Castilian Prince* on a six months' leave of absence.

—A law journal is soon to appear in São Paulo under the title of *Forum*. It is to be devoted to legal questions affecting the courts of that state.

—Major Jeronymo Teixeira Franco, one of the persons accused of complicity in the attempt on the life of President Prudente de Moraes, has been arrested in Santa Catharina.

—On the 1st of March a congressional election will be held in the 4th district of the State of Rio de Janeiro for filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Adolpho Pereira de Burgos Ponce de Leon.

—A Havas telegram of yesterday announces the death of Lord Sackville, «brother of the prime minister Lord Salisbury». It is curious, but perhaps the Havas agency knows best. Did an accidental nurse change a Cecil baby to a Sackville one?

—Another florinist has committed suicide. His name was José Rubino and he committed suicide by leaping from the *Chá Yndio* in S. Paulo. He left a letter stating that he took this step (or this jump) because the government refused to give him an office.

—A telegram of the 28th ult. from Porto Alegre says that Julio de Castilhos is very much pleased with the eulogy of the *Jornal do Commercio* of Rio de Janeiro. Other readers of the *Jornal* were probably not so well pleased, for the eulogy was contradictory and unsupported by proofs.

—A youth named José Rubino de Oliveira Filho committed suicide in São Paulo on the 26th ult. by throwing himself from the *Chá Yndio*. A letter was found in his pocket addressed to the *Nação*, in which he says that he took his life because he could get no place in any public department.

—The municipal council of São Paulo, whose negligence in the administration of the municipal abattoir has called out many sharp criticisms, has lately made the matter worse by dismissing the veterinary surgeon whose reports regarding the sale of diseased meat furnished proofs against the council and the others of the abattoir. It is now the turn of the people to dismiss the council.

—The São Paulo state government has decided that the maximum number of immigrants to be introduced under contract into that state per month shall be 2,000 by Messrs. Pereira & Co., and 1,000 by Sr. J. Antunes dos Santos. This ought to be stipulated as the average, as it may happen that the steamers will arrive in such a way as to exceed the maximum one month and fall far short of it the next.

—On the 21st ult. a painful accident occurred at Santos. Mr. Leonard Pine-Coffin, an employee of Messrs. E. Johnston & Co., being caught in a strong current while bathing and drowned before help could be procured. His body was recovered the following day and buried in the Protestant cemetery. The unfortunate young man was only 21 years of age, and was looking forward to a trip home a few months hence.

—Inasmuch as Dr. Stancelli is soon expected to arrive in São Paulo, and Dr. Domingos Freire has offered to send up one of his vacating commissions, the victims of yellow fever in that state are in for a bad time of it. The fever is bad enough, to say the least, but when we have 8,000 people in the streets, and a mob of 10,000 upon the wretched people at the same time, their chances of escaping death must be considered very slight.

—At Pelotas some days ago there was a fight between Alípio Cadaval, editor of the *Tribuna do Povo*, and Col. Ilha Moreira, commander of the 3rd regiment of artillery. In view of the latter's threats the *Tribuna* on the following day suspended publication; but the editor has since received assurances from Gen. M. Rinho, commander of the military district, and Col. S. Justino dos Reis, commander of the garrison, that without fear of molestation he may resume the publication of his paper.

# RAILROAD NOTES

—The Central railway administration is erecting on Rua Senador Pompeu a building for its electric plant.

—Five new locomotives have recently arrived for the Central railway. It will be interesting to know how long it will be before they are smashed up.

—It is stated that some days ago the Central railway collected 22,800 freight on half a bag of beans shipped from Rio de Janeiro to S. Paulo. The beans had cost 19¢.

—The director of the Central railway has officially complimented the station-agents on the S. Paulo branch of that road for zealous and correct performance of their duties.

—The total number of laborers employed in the construction of the duplicate line of the S. Paulo railway is said to be 9,300, and not 3,800 as was stated last week. The cost of this line is estimated at 100,000,000 of which 40,000,000 is said to have been already spent.

—We are informed that the failure of the local woodworking establishments to tender for certain pieces of material for the Central, was the result of an understanding. A call for tenders must have at least two proposals, and as the various establishments interested had reasons for believing that a certain firm would certainly enjoy preference, the others concluded not to bid.

—We learn through private channels that the negotiations in London for the lease of the Central railway have been terminated, and that the government has no further intention of leasing the road. The information is from a good source, but we still hope that it is not strictly correct. Aside from the needs of the treasury, the lease would be of incalculable benefit to the country, for official management has signally failed.

—Our railways are slow to adopt devices for the good of the public. Excursion tickets are sold to those who live in the city and who want to go out of town, but none are offered to those who live outside and want to take a run into town, thus discriminating against those who take up a residence on the line, a policy which is against the interests of the railways quite as much as against the public. Those who live on a railway should at least have as many facilities offered to them as those who only go occasionally. —*Buenos Aires Herald*.

—By decree of the 18th ult., the state government of Minas Gerais annulled the contract made on the 21st of August, 1893, with Visconde de Gualy for constructing the Espírito Santo e Minas railway. It appears from this decree that work on the two lines of this railway has been stopped ever since last August, that the contractor has paid to the sub-contractors only 1,835,375\$21, and that he still owes the state 4,718,725\$. It also appears that his other expenses have been 476,010\$901, making with the sum paid to the sub-contractors a total of 2,312,325\$512. As he had received from the state government 3,311,000\$, the unexpended balance in his possession was consequently 998,674\$888. And yet, although he had obtained from the government favors not contemplated in his contract, he not only failed to complete the sections of the two lines that, according to the contract, should have been in operation in April, 1895, but also allowed the work to be stopped on account of non-payment of the sub-contractors. In view of the foregoing the decree, as we have said, annuls the contract. It is said, however, that Visconde de Gualy contests the validity of the decree and intends to carry the question into the courts.

# SHIPPING NOTES

—The British cruiser *Cornwall* has arrived in port, coming from the Pacific.

—It is stated that the American gunboat *Albatross* is on her way to South America.

—The cruiser *Andrade*, with political prisoners on board, arrived at Pernambuco on Saturday last.

—Port dues have been levied upon the American private yacht *Franklin* at Buenos Aires, contrary to the general custom. Yacht owners will do well to make a note of this.

—It is stated that the steamer *Ville de Montevideo* will receive a premium of 100,000 francs for towing the *Atrevida* from the latitude of the island of Fernando de Noronha to Pernambuco.

The cargo of the German steamer *Jupiter*, which went ashore at Punta Negra, off the coast of Maldonado, Uruguay, 48 miles from Montevideo, was in great part successfully removed by Russian salvage tugs. The cargo consisted of 1,000 sheep, 300 steers and a large quantity of produce, including 7,943 bags of wheat, and the steamer was bound for Antwerp. The *Jupiter* is not one of the Prigorifera steamers reported to have been sold to the government, as we at first supposed.

Extract from *Fair play* dated 30 Dec. 1895.

In *Fairplay* of the 28th October, and 4th November, particulars were given of a serious accident to the ship *Saville* by the S. *Takamaru* (her tail end shaft having broken about 500 miles from Rio on her homeward voyage),

and of the excellent work done on board in fixing the broken shaft with Thompson's patent coupler, enabling the vessel to reach Rio under her own steam. She arrived in London on the 12th inst. As the shaft was running 3 in. out of truth, and the stern tube was smashed, it was not considered safe to proceed further in such a state. At first it was proposed to simply remove the propeller, and tow the steamer home, as docking was practically impossible, on account of the cargo consisting almost entirely of frozen meat. This idea was given up after the Captain had gone into the question of tipping the vessel with Mr. A. S. Williamson, the surveyor to Lloyd's Register, and the Shew, Seville & Alfion Co. Limited, had authorized their agents, Messrs. Wilson, Sons & Co. Limited, to make the attempt. This firm took immediate steps to carry out the instructions they had received, and towed the steamer across the Bay, anchoring her fore and aft abreast of their extensive works at Ilha de Conceição, where she was well sheltered, and had a berth of nine fathoms of water. Discharging operations were then started, the work being carried on continuously day and night, 850 tons weight (or 2000 tons measurement) of general cargo being stored in lighters, and nearly 1,100 tons of coal removed from the bunkers and placed in hulks. The after ballast tanks were then emptied, and the forward ones filled, and part of the coal hauled and stored in the fore peak, on the fore-deck, etc., the result being that the draft was reduced from 27ft. to 8ft. 6 in. aft. During this time all that was possible was being done in the engineering department to have everything in readiness, and when tipping operations were successfully accomplished, a temporary stern bush with gland was fitted, the spare shaft fitted, and the broken bearings, etc., in the tunnel were renewed. The vessel was then brought back to her original trim, the whole operations having occupied 34 days, which was a very good record for Rio, and an excellent achievement on the part of Messrs. Wilson, Sons & Co. Limited, specially considering that the work had all to be done afloat. The captain, engineers and officers are entitled to every credit for the energetic manner in which they helped the work along. The delay in Rio did not affect the frozen cargo in the slightest.

## LOCAL NOTES

—A S. Paulo paper asserts that the *Republica* will shortly resume publication in this city.

—It is stated that a committee under the presidency of Gen. Vasconcelos will be appointed for reporting on the Krupp artillery.

—A Lima telegram of the 30th ult. says that the Brazilian chargé in Ecuador, Sr. Pereira de Abreu, has gone crazy. He imagines that he is to be the victim of some attack.

—A report is circulating in the American press that an apparatus has been made by Sr. Bortaux, of this city, for taking photographs under water. Has any one heard of the discovery down this way?

—Floating near the cruiser *Primeiro de Mayo*, the corpse of the suicide Visconde de S. Pius was found by the officer of the watch of that vessel on last Friday morning. It was interred on the same day.

—On Saturday the ten persons accused of the murder of Col. Gentil de Castro were indicted by Judge Bellarmino da Gama. Three of them were also indicted for attempting to kill Visconde de Ouro Preto.

—A Rome telegram says that Marquis Rindini is promising a law for the protection of emigrants. Let us hope it will also acknowledge responsibility for the criminals who are leaving Italy for better pastures.

—A Rome telegram of the 30th ult. says an inquiry has been made in the chamber of deputies in regard to the poisoning of emigrants to Brazil on the steamer *Agoral*. The explanation is that the poisoning was caused by defective kitchen utensils.

—The supreme court has at last confirmed the sentence passed upon José Pinto de Almeida some years ago for the crime of murder committed in Campinas. It has been up before the courts so many times that the public will be glad to see it settled for good.

—After much serious thought the military commission presided over by General Pires Ferreira, who is also a senator and therefore charged with the duty of reducing expenses, has finally adopted a scheme for new army uniforms. Under existing circumstances, this change might be postponed.

—The proprietor of building No. 56 Rua Haddock Lobo, which has been vacant for some time, was astonished to learn a few days ago that some unknown person or persons had stored a large quantity of ammunition in the house. The military and police authorities were informed and the matter is undergoing investigation.

—We learn that the new American minister to this country, Charles Page Bryan, Esq., is a comparatively young man, being about 42 years of age. He belongs to a prominent Chicago family, his father having been one of the officials in charge of the Chicago Exposition. He is a man of liberal education, has travelled much, and has had considerable experience in public affairs. Like many other public men, he has also been a journalist.

—The daily mortality reports are now showing one or two deaths a day from yellow fever. In view of the intensely hot weather of the last fortnight this is not at all surprising. The fever is of a mild character and does not promise to develop an epidemic type. It will not be amiss, however, for the public to take the usual precautions of avoiding excess or exposure to all sources of infection.

—It is stated that the municipal government of this city has employees 45 years of age who are credited with 40 years' service and are consequently entitled to retirement with pensions exceeding their present salaries. There are also said to be employees 14 years old, who in addition to their salaries are receiving double pay as soldiers of so-called patriotic battalions and who, when they reach the age of 21, will be credited with 11 years' municipal service and three years' campaign service.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of Sunday is informed that the seven existing military schools will be reduced to three which, it is said, will yield an economy of a thousand contos. This information in great part was published two or three months ago, when the bill authorizing these changes passed congress. If now a further economy could be effected by reducing the three remaining schools to one, and the number of students to 250, then it would be just the economy we would like to see.

—There was a fight on Rua da Misericórdia on Sunday evening between some policemen and national guards. The affair was caused by the arrest of a drunk and disorderly, who was a friend of a national guard. The latter assaulted the policeman, assisted by other guards, and gave him a beating. Three more policemen came up and were driven back. The guards then prepared to assault the police station, when an officer arrived on the scene. Let us hope that their punishment will be serious enough to make them understand the danger of interfering with police officials.

—It is said that an attempt was made on Saturday to land meat in this city coming from the Marajó abattoir on the other side of the bay, and that the municipal officials prevented it. It is a disgrace to this city that free competition should be restricted in this manner. We are in the hands of monopolies on every side, and the city government uses force to protect them. If the Marajó abattoir can supply good beef, why should it not do so? It is nearer than Santa Cruz, and the beef ought to be in better condition. But we are living under a republic, which guarantees us all the liberties—but really gives us none!

## BIRTH.

At São Paulo on the 25th inst. the wife of T. B. Mite, London and Brazilian Bank Ltd. of a son, still-born.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*U. S. Consular Reports*, for December, 1897. Contains special reports relating to trade in Chili and Venezuela, the balance of the number being devoted to Europe and the East.

Beginning on the 1st ult. the United States government issues *Advance Sheets* of the Consular Reports daily. The Reports will be issued in monthly numbers as before.

## THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

The attendance at the English Church on the 24th ult. being insufficient to decide the highly important question of church repairs, an adjourned meeting has been called for the 2nd inst. The roof of the church edifice has become insecure, and repairs are absolutely necessary. An important question has arisen whether the congregation shall improve this opportunity to give the edifice a higher roof, more suitable to its character, and a new facade, the latter being made necessary by a change in the pitch of the roof.

We have seen two of the plans presented, and either one of them will give the congregation an edifice much more suitable for divine worship. Personally we would prefer the plan which gives a single span open roof (the other, and the plainer facade, as they would better harmonize with the size and surroundings of the edifice, besides being less expensive.

The ways and means, however, will probably claim the most attention, for the congregation is not large and the times are difficult. The treasurer has a small part of the money required for improvements, and the balance must be provided for at once. We are inclined to think that the congregation will be able to provide ample security for a loan to cover any balance remaining after the subscriptions are in, and we may therefore look upon the improvement as a certainty.

## BRITISH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

An adjourned meeting was held 27th January, 1898, at which were present, Messrs. Pallin, Nicholls, Hampshire, Maule, Voule, E. Hine, Jor, Fraser, Hall, Miller, Maury, Wheatley, Stacey, H. Pullen, Williamson, Ockell, Mackenzie, Pryor, E. E. Hime, Thibaudier, Mr. Stacey in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and passed, the chairman opened the proceedings. Mr. H. H. entered into explanations, re letter in November number of *Church Echo* and was answered by Mr. Voule

and Mr. Hampshire. Mr. Miller then proposed and Mr. H. Pullen seconded the following motion:

"That the subscribers of the B. S. L. much regret the appearance of the anonymous letter in the *Church Echo*, and they beg to put on record their high appreciation of the efficient manner in which the Library has been administered by the retiring committee during the past year, and also place on record their entire confidence in the said committee."

Mr. Mackenzie proposed an amendment suppressing all reference to the *Church Echo* episode. This was seconded by Mr. Voule and carried unanimously. Mr. Miller's motion in its amended form was then put to the vote and carried without dissent.

The chairman then renewed his proposal that the retiring committee be re-elected but this being opposed by those present of the old committee, Mr. Nicholls proposed and Mr. Hampshire seconded motion for a new election. This was carried and the chairman after ballot declared elected: Mr. Pullen with 15 votes, Mr. Hampshire with 15 votes, Mr. Voule with 14 votes, Mr. Maule with 13 votes, Mr. Nicholls with 13 votes, Mr. Hall with 8 votes, and Mr. Crowshaw with 7 votes.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## BUSINESS NOTES

—There are reported to be many laborers out of work at Pará.

—The United States consulate has been removed to No. 99 Rua 1 de Março.

—The new building of the Banco Nacional constructed by the architects Januzzi was delivered to the board of directors on last Friday.

—The government has exempted from the payment of duty 96,000 bottles to be imported for the Lamby and Carbuquim mineral waters.

—It is stated that the government intends calling for tenders in Europe for coining nickel in 1000 and 200 reis pieces to the amount of 20,000,000\$. Why?

—The ex-treasurer of the Central railway has again been placed under arrest. It seems very difficult to punish a man whose defaultions cover large sums.

—A telegram of the 25th inst. from Bahia says that merchants of that city have protested against the manner in which the tobacco tax regulations have been executed.

—A bank is suing the government for 5,500 bags of flour which, imported at Santos in 1895, were not found in the custom-house when the consignee sought to withdraw them.

—A recent issue of the *Diário Popular* complains of the high prices of articles of prime necessity in S. Paulo, where, it says, the wages of the working classes are insufficient to meet expenses.

—The custom-house estimates at 110,295,572.500 the value of the direct foreign imports at Santos in 1897. The value of the imports received from other ports of Brazil in the same year is estimated at 30,281,053.5123.

—On Saturday there was meeting of importers for the purpose of taking action in regard to the improper classification of merchandise by certain custom-house officials who misinterpret the provisions of the new tariff.

—When the postoffice finds it necessary to open parcels addressed to us, containing electrotypes, we should be glad to have some care used in repacking in order to avoid injury. A little consideration for the public will do no harm.

—It was reported in Sunday morning's papers that the new edifice on Rua da Alfandega constructed for the Banco Nacional, had been sold to the London and River Plate Bank for the premises now occupied by the latter and £ 7,000.

—On account of the increase in freight rates on the Central railway and the heavy tax of 61 reis per kilo collected on sole leather by the state government of Minas Geraes, the tanners in this state are reducing their production and dismissing part of their operatives. A tannery at Barbacena has reduced the number of its operatives from 18 to 5.

—From the Rio Doce bar there was shipped last year the following merchandise:—20,026 bags of coffee, paying duties to the amount of 53,472.520; 1,495 dozen logs of rose-wood, paying duties to the amount of 8,871.890; 510 kilos of cacao, paying duties to the amount of 62.20; 5 dozen barrels, paying duties to the amount of 48.000; 712 kilos of tobacco.

—The government has refused to pay the premium of 100,000 francs each claimed by four steamship companies for bringing to the country in 1895 more than 100,000 immigrants. The government alleges that the premium was intended for steamships bringing 300,000 immigrants and that moreover the favor was repaid by Art. 6, § 3, of Law No. 390, of Dec. 30, 1895.

—After the lapse of a month the Botanical Garden tramway directors have succeeded in settling with the mine insurance companies which had issued policies on the company's electric power house. It was an unnecessarily long time, but we must be thankful that it was done even in a month. Now let the police be withdrawn, so that the company can repair damages and resume work.

—Our local readers will be interested to know that Mr. John A. Finlay, of No. 75 Rua Theophilo Ottoni, who is agent here for Messrs. Sutton & Sons, of Reading, has received a large assortment of flower and vegetable seeds of the choicest varieties, all specially packed for preservation in this climate. The prices are the same as those in Sutton's catalogue, plus a small percentage to defray local expenses. As the stock is limited, our readers will do well to apply soon, in order to obtain a full selection.

—The widely-known firm of Morton, Rose & Co. was dissolved on December 31st last, Mr. C. D. Rose retiring from the business, which in future will be carried on by the remaining partners, Messrs. Levi P. Morton, Richard J. Cross, George T. Bliss, W. A. Grinnell, in New York, and Messrs. Ernest Chaplin and George Grinnell-Milne in London, under the style of Morton, Chaplin & Co. Grinnell-Milne, who has been associated with the firm for many years past, takes the place vacated by Mr. Rose.

—The following is a statement of the receipts of carne secca (dried beef) at Pernambuco:

	1896.	1897.
From Rio Grande do Sul .....	517,500 arrobas	545,600 arrobas
do the River Plate .....	1,291,800 "	870,000 "
Total .....	1,807,300 "	1,415,600 "

The extreme prices for the Rio Grande article were 3\$ and 13\$500 per arroba, in 1896 and 3\$ and 1\$50 in 1897, and for the River Plate article 7\$500 and 1\$500 in 1896 and 8\$500 and 1\$500 in 1897.

## FINANCIAL NOTES

—We suggest that the government shall have its bonds printed hereafter on colored paper, so that, if the depreciation continues, they may be converted into confetti.

—The minister of industry has ordered the payment of 150,367\$341 to the União Sorocabana e Ytumba railway company on account of guaranteed interest for the second half of 1897.

—The *Jornal do Brazil* of yesterday morning says that at a meeting of the cabinet that afternoon would be resolved various important questions such as the payment of the external debt and the fall in exchange.

—The redemption of the bonds recently issued by the state government of Paraná is guaranteed by the export duty on mate, from whose product the sum of 20,000\$ will be reserved monthly for this purpose.

—The following statement shows the estimated product of export duties in the state of Bahia and the amount actually collected for the years 1896 and 1897:

	1896	1897
Estimate .....	6,692,458\$919	6,692,458\$919
Collected .....	5,154,176\$716	7,565,105\$204

—At the end of last year the floating debt of the municipal government of this city was, in round numbers, as follows:

Salaries .....	1,800,000\$
Wages .....	800,000\$
Interest on funded debt .....	400,000\$
Sundry accounts .....	700,000\$

Total .....

The expenditure for the present year is estimated in the municipal budget at 15,826,270\$; but, as the budget fails to provide for many necessary expenses, it is thought that the actual expenditure will considerably exceed the estimate. The revenue, estimated in the budget at 17,656,136\$, will not, it is believed, really exceed 12,000,000\$. It is supposed, then, that at the end of this year the deficit will amount to about 8,000,000\$.

—The following comparative statement of customs receipts for 1896 and 1897 has been made public:

	1896	1897
Import duties .....	246,639,29\$5	222,970,350\$5
Port dues .....	633,414\$	516,902\$
Surtaxes .....	15,458,17\$8	298,600\$
Export duties .....	168,962\$	190,915\$
Interior .....	3,458,302\$	8,929,135\$
Consumption .....	217,421\$	791,421\$
Extraordinary .....	1,622,614\$	1,902,573\$

Deposits .....

267,628,20\$8	235,638,90\$8
11,369,55\$5	8,383,95\$6

278,997,76\$4








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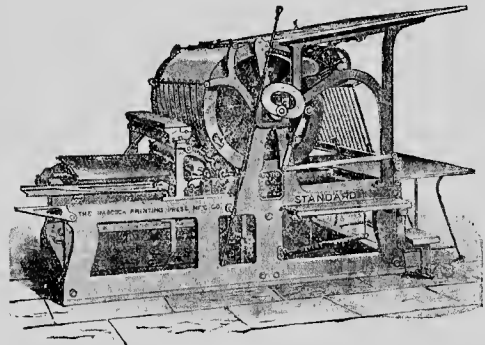
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